

**In the Specification:**

Kindly amend the abstract as follows:

A modular vehicle system for a vehicle [is provided which] includes one or more elongated modular members adapted to be coupled to an interior portion of a vehicle. [, where o] One or more removable articles are configured for attachment to one or more of the members and a utility system provides utilities to the articles. One or more holders are positioned to align with the members and are coupled to the articles for attaching [the articles] them to one or more of the members. The articles are interchangeable across multiple different vehicles, including different vehicle models and makes.

Kindly amend paragraph [0020] as follows:

[0020] The attachment points allow for releasable engagement of the plurality of articles 20 with the receiving members 16. In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, the articles consist of a light module 22, which is preferably located near the front of the modular system 10. The light module 22 is stationary or fixed, i.e. not releasably engageable with the modular system 10. Alternatively, the light module 22 may be releasably engageable or coupled with the modular system 10. The modular system 10 also includes a first module 24, which may be a display screen. The modular system 10 also includes another light module 26 located in about the middle of the system 10 and a plurality of storage modules 28, 30, 32 located near the rear of the system 10. Each of the modules 24, 26, 28, [30,] and 32 are releasably engageable with the system 10 such that they can each be independently and readily detached from their respective attachment points for attachment to a modular system in another vehicle or for detachment and then reattachment at a later time.

Kindly amend paragraph [0024] as follows:

[0024] The members 16 are secured to the vehicle in a wide variety of different ways. For example, the ends of the members 16 may be rigidly attached to the forward and rearward edges of the roof frame by welding, brazing or fastening with conventional fasteners. The members 16 may have ends attached directly to the

frame, or the members 16 may be attached to the roof frame via fixtures such as brackets. The forward and rearward end connections of members 16 may also be covered by suitable trim components, shown schematically as a bezel or molding [22] 23. The members 16 may have a side profile that is straight, or a side profile that is slightly curved or bowed to correspond with the panel profile. In an alternative embodiment, the members 16 may be secured to door panel structures or to pillars or other support columns within the interior of the vehicle. Such support columns may be permanently fixed to the interior vehicle structure or may be removeably or retractably attached to vehicle structure such as the floor, the roof or the sides of the vehicle to create a modular vehicle rail system for attaching articles within any interior location of a vehicle. Additionally, the members 16 may be formed or disposed in grooves formed in the interior panel 14.

Kindly amend paragraph [0025] as follows:

[0025] Also shown in Figure 1 is a utility interface 30 for the system 10 may be included within the [cover 12] interior panel 14 for communicating with passageways through the roof structure and interfacing with members 16. The interface 30 includes a series of ports [32] (e.g. connectors, receptacles, jacks, plugs, or the like) for facilitating the interconnection of conventional utility carriers (e.g. wires, cables, conductors, harnesses, or the like) for delivering utilities (e.g. electrical power, voice and data communication signals, RF transmission signals, instrumentation signals, or the like) between a supply source and the articles 20 mounted to the members 16. The utilities may be routed from the utility supply source (e.g. a battery, antenna, receiver, transmitter, or the like) through utility carriers that interconnect the supply source and the ports [32] provided in the interface 30. The utility interface 30 may be provided in either the forward or rearward portion of the vehicle.

Kindly amend paragraph [0027] as follows:

[0027] The attachment points in the modular system 50 allow for releasable engagement of the plurality of articles 60 with the receiving members 56. In the

embodiment shown in Figure 2, the articles consist of a light module 62, which is preferably located near the front of the modular system 50. The light module 62 is stationary or fixed, i.e. not releasably engageable or coupled with the modular system 50. Alternatively, the light module 62 may be releasably engageable or coupled with the modular system 50. The modular system 50 also includes a first module 64, which may be a display screen. The modular system 50 also includes another light module 66 located in about the middle of the system [60] 50 and a plurality of storage modules 68, 70, 72 located near the rear of the system 50. Another light module 74 is located at the very rear of the module 50. Each of the modules 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, and 74 are releasably engageable with the system 50 such that they can each be independently and readily detached from their respective attachment points for attachment to a modular system in another vehicle or for detachment and then reattachment at a later time. This allows for the articles to be interchangeable by the user long after purchase of the vehicle. It also allows the user to purchase additional articles and add them to the modular system 50 at a later date.

Kindly amend paragraph [0029] as follows:

[0029] The attachment points in the modular system 80 allow for releasable engagement of the plurality of articles 88 with the receiving members 86. In the embodiment shown in Figure 3, the articles consist of a light module [90] 92, which is preferably located near the front of the modular system 50. The light module 92 is stationary or fixed, i.e. not releasably engageable or coupled with the modular system 80. Alternatively, the light module 92 may be releasably engageable or coupled with the modular system 80. The modular system 80 also includes a first module 94, which may be a display screen. The modular system 80 also includes another storage module 96 located near the rear of the system 80. The module 80 is shorter than the module 80. Each of the modules 94 and 96 are releasably engageable with the system 80 such that they can each be independently and readily detached from their respective attachment points for attachment to a modular system in another vehicle or for detachment and then reattachment at a later time. This allows for the articles to be

interchangeable by the user long after purchase of the vehicle. It also allows the user to purchase additional articles and add them to the modular system 80 at a later date.

Kindly amend paragraph [0035] as follows:

[0035] As one of ordinary skill will appreciate, the length of each modular mounting member 16 is controlled by two separate factors, including the number of center module sections 202 added between the respective end pieces 210, 220 and by the length of the respective rail sections [208, 212, 222] **202, 210, 220**.

Kindly amend paragraph [0037] as follows:

[0037] Referring now to Figures 7 and 8, a single modular piece 300 having no female or male portion replaces the respective end and center modular pieces of Figures 2 and 4 through 6. The modular piece 300 includes a rail region [302] extending along a bottom parallel side surface 304 having a pair of perpendicular side surfaces 306 running perpendicular to the length of the [rail region 302] **bottom parallel side surface 304**. The modular pieces 300 are placed end to end such that the perpendicular side surfaces 304 of adjacent pieces 300 abut, therein forming a continuous rail region extending along the bottom length of the formed mounting member 16. A coupler [306] **308** is used to couple together two adjacent modular pieces 300.

Kindly amend paragraph [0044] as follows:

[0044] While the inlet region 213 and protruding region 225 of Figures [8 and 9] **9 and 10** are shown as permanently formed areas, it is contemplated that protruding and inlet regions could be formed from having a selectively adjustable center section. Thus, for example, a single member 202, 210, 220 could have an adjustable center section that could be adjusted from a wider width to a narrower width (i.e. similar to adjusting from a protruding region to an inlet region) or from a narrower width to a wider width. This embodiment may be especially advantageous, in that a vehicle operator may adjust the width of the respective member 202, 210, 220 after the elongate members have been mounted. This allows new, non-standard width articles

20 to be readily accommodated within the vehicle without having to first remove, adjust, and remount one or both of the elongate members.

Kindly amend paragraph [0046] as follows:

**[0046]** As seen in the present invention, a new and powerful method for forming the elongated modular mounting members 16 easily and efficiently may be realized for use across in a wide variety of vehicles having different shapes and sizes. In the present invention, the same modular mounting members 16 may be used in the smallest vehicles, such as a subcompact car, to the largest of vehicles, such as a full size sports utility vehicle or larger. Similarly, the same modular mounting members 16 may be used in smaller spaces, like [doorframes] **door frames**, or in larger spaces such as rooftops. By limiting the number of potential different pieces that form the modular mounting members 30, manufacturing cost savings may be realized in terms of raw material and tooling costs. Further, design cost savings may be realized by not having to design individual mounting members 16 that meet the required specifications for the respective vehicle. Finally, by varying the width between the generally parallel mounting members, both in terms of spacing between the members and by incorporating members with inlet or protruding regions, the modular vehicle rail system can be accommodated in the smaller or larger spaces within the vehicle interior and can accommodate articles having varying attachment widths.